

APPENDICES

Appendix 1¹

Secret—Urgent

Northern District Command/Intelligence Battalion 123/Intelligence
Battalion 131, 122, 121/Intelligence

31 October 1948

Information report from 10/30 (8:00 hours)—to 10/31 (8:00 hours)

Enemy status: The enemy withdrew from the al-Birwa and Majd al-Krum region on the evening of 10/29.

Orders for the operation: in keeping with the standing orders for Operation Hiram following the surrender of Majd al-Krum.

Actions taken by our forces: Following the arrival of a delegation of the residents of Majd al-Krum, al-Bi‘na, Dayr al-Asad, and Nahaf at the barricade around our forces in the Birwa area on 10/29, the battalion commander arrived with a platoon from the first company and a platoon from the second company and a platoon from the third company. On the morning of 10/30 al-Jamal position was secured to guarantee the safety of the platoons that had advanced beyond the barricade. Following a cautious advance accompanied by Arab guides we reached the road and entered Majd al-Krum.

After we entered, our forces observed a column of armored vehicles on the road coming from the direction of al-Rama—which appeared to be French-made—and which fired on Majd al-Krum. Our forces returned fire, and withdrew to points to the west of Majd al-Krum. After the armored column entered Majd al-Krum it became clear it was a detachment from Battalion 12 which had received orders while in al-Rama (11:00 hours) to advance quickly from there to Majd al-Krum.

At 12:30 the notable of the village of Majd al-Krum accepted the conditions for a cease-fire and at 14:25 they signed the agreement in front of the battalion officer.

Our casualties: One wounded from the first company who was wounded in the exchange of fire with Battalion 12 near Majd al-Krum.

Our plan: To transfer control over the Majd al-Krum area to the forces belonging to Company 122.

Status of enemy forces: Nothing worth mentioning.

Miscellaneous items: Majd al-Krum has about 1,800 residents according to a first estimate. During the withdrawal [of the Arab Liberation army] a number of women and children fled to the neighboring Christian village of al-Bi'na. A number of men also fled to the neighboring mountains, as we were informed at the time of surrender. There is a large number of men of military service age in the village, as well as refugees from areas which had been occupied previously.

In accordance with the surrender terms of Majd al-Krum, we gave them until the morning of 10/31 (8:00 hours) to gradually turn in their weapons.

Signed by:

Hanan Levi

Intelligence Officer/Battalion 123